

ABSTRACT

A hydraulic drive system is mounted on a hydraulic excavator, and is provided with a directional control valve 23 for a boom, a directional control valve 24 for an arm, a boom control device 25 for selectively controlling the directional control valve 23 for the boom, and an arm control device 26 for selectively controlling the directional control valve 24 for the arm. The directional control valves 23,24 control a boom cylinder 6 and an arm cylinder 7, respectively, which are driven by pressure oil delivered from a main hydraulic pump 21. The hydraulic drive system is provided with a communication control means for communicating a rod chamber 6b of the boom cylinder 6 and a bottom chamber 7a of the arm cylinder 7 with each other when a stroke of the arm control device 26 has become a predetermined amount S or greater. The communication control means has made it possible to effectively use pressure oil in the rod chamber of the first hydraulic cylinder, which was conventionally drained into a reservoir, irrespective of the level of a bottom pressure in the second hydraulic cylinder upon performing a combined operation that pressure oil is fed to a bottom chamber of the first hydraulic cylinder and the bottom chamber of the second hydraulic cylinder.